MAR 0 9 2006 Customer No. 01933

Application No. 10/609,162 Response to Office Action

Attorney Docket No. 03383/LH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kimihiko SANO et al

Serial No. 10/609,162 :

Filed June 26, 2003 :

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1772 Art Unit

Catherine A. Simone Examiner

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO NO. 1-571-273-8300

TOTAL PAGES: 18

Amendment (18)

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents on the date noted below.

Nalini P. Sahadeo

Dated: March 9, 2006

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by form PTO-2038 attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee to Account No. 06-1378.

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 9, 2005, the term for response to which expires on March 9, 2006.

Amendments to the Claims are set forth in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-12 and 24 are canceled; claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 13-23 and 25-27 are amended.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.